

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing decorative polymeric ribbon material, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible sheet or web of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper while maintaining structural and mechanical characteristics of the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material; and

cutting the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material into strips having a predetermined width to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material that can be wrapped about items and formed into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the decorative polymeric ribbon material having the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof while maintaining the structural and mechanical characteristics of the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material from which the decorative polymeric ribbon material is formed.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is further provided with an embossed pattern in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is further provided with a printed pattern in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is provided with an embossed pattern and at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is provided with a printed pattern.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein, in the step of cutting the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material into strips to provide decorative polymeric ribbon

material, a boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material is defined as the portion of the decorative polymeric ribbon material lying between opposite sides of the decorative polymeric ribbon material, and wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the printed pattern is in register with the embossed pattern.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein, in the step of cutting the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material into strips to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material, a boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material is defined as the portion of the decorative polymeric ribbon material lying between opposite sides of the decorative polymeric ribbon material, and wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the printed pattern is out of register with the embossed pattern.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein, in the step of cutting the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material into strips to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material, a boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material is defined as the portion of the decorative polymeric ribbon material lying between opposite sides of the decorative polymeric ribbon material, and wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material, the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is printed with a matted ink or a foamable ink to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material, the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is lacquered with a matted lacquer or a foamable lacquer to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material, the flexible sheet or web of polymeric material is an expanded core polymeric film.

13. A method for providing decorative polymeric ribbon material, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, laminated polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a sheet of material laminated to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film; and

wherein at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper while maintaining structural and mechanical characteristics of the flexible, laminated polymeric material; and

cutting the flexible, laminated polymeric material into strips having a predetermined width to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material that can be wrapped about items and formed into bows and decorative ornamentations containing ruffles, loops and curved segments, the decorative polymeric ribbon material having the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper disposed on at least a portion of one surface thereof while maintaining the structural and mechanical characteristics of the

flexible, laminated polymeric material from which the decorative polymeric ribbon material is formed.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is further provided with an embossed pattern in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is further provided with a printed pattern in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is provided with an embossed pattern and at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is provided with a printed pattern.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein, in the step of cutting the flexible, laminated polymeric material into strips to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material, a boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material is defined as the portion of the decorative polymeric ribbon material lying between opposite sides of the decorative polymeric ribbon material, and wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the printed pattern is in register with the embossed pattern.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein, in the step of cutting the flexible, laminated polymeric material into strips to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material, a boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material is defined as the portion of the decorative polymeric ribbon material lying between opposite sides of the decorative polymeric ribbon material, and wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the printed pattern is out of register with the embossed pattern.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein, in the step of cutting the flexible, laminated polymeric material into strips to provide decorative polymeric ribbon material, a boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material is defined as the portion of the decorative polymeric ribbon material lying between opposite sides of the decorative polymeric ribbon material, and wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns lie within the boundary of the decorative polymeric ribbon material.

22. The method of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is printed with a matted ink or a foamable ink to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

23. The method of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material, at least a portion of one surface of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is lacquered with a matted lacquer or a foamable lacquer to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.



24. The method of claim 13 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, laminated polymeric material, the polymeric film is an expanded core polymeric film.